

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04961 130449Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 130326Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1597

S E C R E T SEOUL 4961

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE

REF: SEOUL 4891

1. AT MY INSTRUCTION POLCOUNS AGAIN CONTACTED MOFA'S PAK SANG-YONG ON MORNING JUNE 13 TO GET UPDATE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR. PAK CONTINUED POSITIVE IN HIS VIEW OF THE POSSIBLILTY OF WORKING OUT A SOLUTION ALONG THE LINE SUGGESTED IN THE LAST KIM-JAWORSKI MEETING BUT STATED THAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER WAS NOT YET COMPLETED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MOFA HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR KIM EARLY ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR A FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN KIM AND JAWORSKI DURING THIS WEEK. PAK STATED THAT, SINCE INSTRUCTIONS HAD AS YET NOT BEEN SENT, SUCH A MEETING WOULD NOT APPEAR LIKELY BEFORE THURSDAY OR FRIDAY. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT TIMING IN THIS MATTER WAS ALL IMPORTANT AND, SINCE ROKG FOUND GOOD POSSIBILITIES IN THE RECENT JAWORSKI PROPOSAL, IT SHOULD NOT LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION BY AN OVER-LONG DELAY IN TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN THE DIALOGUE. PAK AGREED THAT TIMING WAS IMPORTANT AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT MOFA WAS PRESSING FOR A FURTHER KIM-JAWORSKI MEETING THIS WEEK.

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2. LOCAL PRESS JUNE 13 IS ALSO PLAYING THE JAWORSKI PROPOSAL IN A POSITIVE MANNER. OBVIOUSLY BASED ON BACKGROUND BRIEFING FROM MOFA, THE PRESS INDICATES THAT THE LETTER EXCHANGE CONCEPT HAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS AND CONFIDENTLY PREDICTS A FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN KIM AND JAWORSKI THIS WEEK. WITHOUT SAYING SO

DIRECTLY, ARTICLES ARE PLAYING NEW PROPOSAL AS A POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE ROKG BY NOTING THAT PRESSURE FOR MEETINGS IN A THIRD COUNTRY AND FOR TESTIMONY UNDER OATH OR AFFIRMATION APPEAR NOW TH HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AS MATTERS OF CONTENTION. (COMMENT: ROKG APPEARS TO BE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF A COMPROMISE SOLUTION ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY JAWORSKI.)

3. I HAVE ALSO HAD SOME PLAYBACK ON MY MEETING WITH KCIA DIRECTOR KIM REPORTED REFTEL. HE WAS APPARENTLY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH OUR SUGGESTIONS AND DISCUSSED THEM WITH HIS SENIOR STAFF THAT AFTERNOON FOLLOWING LUNCH. ALL AGREED THAT A SOLUTION TO THE KIM CASE MUST BE FOUND SHORTLY. THERE IS ALSO AGREEMENT THAT IN ACHIEVING A SOLUTION KIM SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE BLUE HOUSE AND THE MECHANICS OF DOING THIS ARE THE ONE APPARENT HANG-UP IN MOVING QUICKLY. KIM SEMS TO BE HANGING ON AND EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO ACHIEVE HIS RESIGNATION WITHOUT INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT.

4. IN ADDITION TO OUR CONTINUED URGING OF MOFA FOR PROMPT ACTION, I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED THE ACTING STATION CHIEF TO MAKE CLEAR TO KCIA OUR BELIEF THAT ACTION ON THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, CAT-B, INVESTIGATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL04961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: 1
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaacdqx.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: ad4d498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 SEOUL 4891
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2371850
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW EFFORT TO RESOLE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, (KIM DONG JO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad4d498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014